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INTERNATIONAL LITERARY EXCHANGES.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING

OF THE

CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN PARIS,

AT THE

ATHÉNÉE ROYALE, MARCH 27th 1843.

Embracing

AN ADDRESS

UPON THE LITERARY EXCHANGES
RECENTLY MADE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES,

By **ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.**

Published by order of the Meeting.

PARIS.

Printed by **VINCHON,**
Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, n° 8.
1843.

COPY OF THE LETTER CALLING THE MEETING.

Paris, 16th March, 1843.

Sir,

I shall feel honoured by your presence at a Meeting of Americans to whose judgment I wish to submit my project of International Exchanges, together with an account of my exertions in France in behalf of the United States, and the success with which they have been attended. The Meeting will take place on Monday the 27th inst., at half past seven o'clock, P. M., at the « Athenée royal de Paris, » rue de Valois, n° 2, which the Directors have kindly granted me the use of, as will be seen by the following extracts from their letters.

« Nous mettons à votre disposition notre salle des cours, pour la réunion que vous proposez de faire incessamment de MM. les Américains résidans à Paris.

» Nous sommes heureux, Monsieur, de pouvoir vous être agréables, » ainsi qu'aux compatriotes de l'illustre Franklin, qui a porté à notre » établissement, dans son origine, un vif intérêt, et dont nous avons, » depuis lors, placé le buste en regard de celui de l'infortuné Pilate » de Rosier, notre fondateur.

» Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre parfaite considération, »

Le Président : COMARTIN.

A Monsieur Alex. Vattemare,

l'un des Directeurs de l'Athénée américain.

This occasion, of so much importance to the increased intercourse between France and America, will, I am confident, be a sufficient inducement for you to attend the Meeting and to invite thither any American Ladies and Gentlemen of your acquaintance.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servt.,

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARRE.

N. B. Several of my countrymen, friends to America, will be present.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Vattemare upon the opposite page, a large number of American Ladies and Gentlemen assembled at the Royal Athenæum of Paris, on Monday evening the 27th. of March. The members of the Athenæum with other French, Russian, Turkish and Moldavian Gentlemen were also present at the Meeting, which was held in the large lecture room of the Athenæum, a beautiful hall; tastefully fitted up for the occasion, the French and American flags entwining their folds behind the president's chair.

The Assemblage was called to order and organized by L. DRAPER, Esqr., U. S. Consul at Paris, nominating NATHANIEL NILES Esqr., for President, and Benjamin P. Poore for secretary.

The President returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him, and after briefly setting forth the objects of the Meeting, called upon Mr. Vattemare, who delivered the following address which elicited great applause :

Ladies and Gentlemen : Your assembling here to-day but adds another proof to the many I have hitherto witnessed of the willingness with which the citizens of the United States lend their aid to any measure calculated to advance the moral and intellectual character of their favored Republic, and raise her to a high station amongst the nations of the earth.

Such a measure, Ladies and Gentlemen, is one in which I have

engaged all my time, energies and property for the last fifteen years and although productive of vast results, it is a simple scheme, and told in a few words. It consists of an international exchange of all that is valuable in science, literature, natural history and the fine arts — and the establishment in every nation and state of an institution (under the fostering care of its government) to receive these exchanges — forming not only a *Museum*, illustrative as well of the powers of nature as of the state of perfection to which the productions of the human mind and hand have arrived, or are tending to in every quarter of the globe, but a kind of patent office, where the creations of the industry, the achievements of the intellect, of the inventive faculties, and of the government of each country, may be at once and always assigned to their true origin and always verified without doubt or difficulty.

Is not this a simple scheme, and yet, as I before remarked, productive of vast results? Who can calculate them? One of your countrymen declared, — that, appealing as it does to the higher intellectual powers, it is destined to place all nations, at no very distant period, on a parallel as regards civilization, morality, and those things which alone form the true foundation of human happiness; it will call forth from the hidden archives of learning and philosophy, things adventitious to the more complete progress of science, until the whole world will be flooded with one gorgeous blaze of intellectual light and glory. Then will all national and political prejudices be melted down into one confluent mass, and we shall have an unity of government, of laws, and of religion, a harmonious commonwealth, whose ensign shall be knowledge, and whose motto shall be peace.

I wish that I had time to give you an account of the success which attended the introduction of this scheme in Europe, for it would convince you of its utility and practicability.

Almost every nation adopted it. Thousands of volumes were brought from darkness to enrich the libraries of other lands, and new and hitherto unsuspected sources of historical truth were discovered. Emperors, Kings, Cardinals, the literati and the clergy, sent me the most honorable and flattering testimonials of their approbation, and

after laboring diligently for twelve years, I had the proud satisfaction of seeing my plans triumphantly successful.

But there was another vast continent where my system was as yet unknown. A land which possessed not antique works, but was rich in objects of Natural History. There too was a republic, whose laws were anxiously sought after by the jurists of Europe, and whose citizens would doubtless be happy to receive those of the old world in exchange for them. I was anxious to see them advance and take an independent place in the republic of letters, as they had assumed a distinct nationality — sending forth to all quarters of the earth proofs of their talent, and making universally known the peculiarity of their political institutions, as well as their social advancement and their intellectual worth.

To accomplish this self imposed task, I left my native home, and in September, 1839, landed at New-York. My first sentiments were those of despair, for I found no public institutions, like our own, open free to the public and therefore, no means of laying the treasures which I proposed to bring into the United States, before the people. But when I conversed with the citizens; when I found myself hailed with acclamation; when thousands thronged to hear me narrate what I had to communicate; and the good and the great, the gifted and the wise, without reference to religious or political distinctions came to the aid of my scheme, I found my heart lit up with joy and hope, for I saw that what seed I might sow, in my humble manner, would not fall upon barren ground, and I awaited the harvest.

My mission was no sooner known, than I had crowds of listeners. Both houses of congress; in the midst of a most agitated session, passed a law approving my scheme. While every member, without a single exception, appended their signatures to a document previously signed by the president and his cabinet, enlisting themselves in my cause, and pledging themselves to do all in their power to contribute to its success. Here you will see the names of men from the snow-clad hills of the North — the sunny glades of the South — the rock-bound coast of the Atlantic — and the solitudes of the far West, laying aside sectional feelings and party ties, to meet upon *Neutral-Ground*. John Quincy Adams and Martin Van Buren, Clay and

shed by his department, together with the rare and valuable work of Mr. Lebas on the Obelisk of Luxor, copies of which have also been sent to the States of Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Michigan and New-York.

The Minister of the Interior has sent a great many books and public documents published by his department to the States of Michigan, Louisiana and Missouri.

The Minister of Public Instruction has presented to congress, a precious work, in 29 quarto volumes, entitled « documents inédits de l'histoire de France », which has been compiled from the State papers after a most careful and rigid research. His excellency has likewise informed me that he was ready to transmit to any States, I would point out all the documents on public education published by his department.

The Minister of Commerce has given to Congress, and the States of Maine, New-York, Maryland and Pennsylvania, a most precious collection of documents concerning the statistics, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and other branches of industry in France, collected and published by his department.

The Minister of Finance forwarded all the documents published by his department (which give a complete account of the monetary affairs of France), to Congress, and the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New-York.

The Minister of Justice has presented the Supreme Court of the United States with « Le Bulletin des Lois », a work published by government, in 160 volumes. He has also sent to the supreme courts of Louisiana, Missouri, New-York and Pennsylvania all the criminal and civil Statistics of the courts of France, up to the present time.

The Minister of Foreign affairs has, I believe, sent some valuable presents to America, but as they went through the medium of the Embassy, I cannot state what they were.

The Royal school of Mines has sent the State of Missouri a collection of works on mineralogy, zoology, etc., together with two models in relief of Mount Etna and Vesuvius, executed by the celebrated geologists, Ely de Baumont, and Dufrenoy.

The Directors of the Museum of Natural history have applied to the Minister of public Instruction for several copies of « Archives

du Muséum », a most valuable work, illustrated with colored engravings, to be forwarded to the States of Louisiana and Massachusetts.

The Academy of moral and political sciences transmitted to the State of Massachusetts, a complete set of its memoirs.

The kindness with which I was received in the United States, prompted me to tender congress, as a slight token of my gratitude, a large model of that famous man of War, « la ville de Paris », of 120 guns, which was sent by Louis the 16th, in 1782, to help the people of the United States in the achievement of their revolutionary struggle; and was lost in an engagement between admiral Rodney and the count de Grasse, her commander, on the 12th of August of the same year. This magnificent model having been in my possession for the last 27 years, had become somewhat injured by time and travelling, and finding that there were no workmen in Paris capable of repairing it but those employed by Government, I asked their aid from the Civil Liste, who, learning my intention of presenting it to the United States, immediately ordered M. Lebas, the celebrated marine engineer, to have it put in complete repair, at the expense of government(*).

Many french authors have, as did those of America, given me the fruits of their mind to be transmitted to the United-States; and several societies have promised their papers and works.

I found, too, amongst the french printers that sympathy which was extended towards me by their brethren in America. The most distinguished of them have kindly placed their presses at my disposal, and I consider it a duty to express, on this occasion, my grateful acknowledgements to the following eminent gentlemen : the late M. Crapelet, MM. Bethune and Plon, Didot brothers and Vinchon, who have at their own expense, generously printed all the necessary documents to aid in the propagation and appreciation of my system of intellectual union of nations.

Numbers of scientific and literary societies have assembled for the purpose of encouraging my efforts; and, to sum up all, more than 2,000 volumes, have already crossed or will soon cross the Atlantic, and a general sympathy is universally awakened.

(*) See the documents in the Appendix.

Is not this, Ladies and Gentlemen, a good commencement? Does it not show what immense benefits both of our countries will derive from literary exchanges?

As for me, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall ever congratulate myself on having been a humble contributor to the creation and consolidation of this system of literary exchanges, and entertain in the inmost recesses of my heart, the most profound sentiments of joy and gratitude for the sympathy I have met with among Americans on both sides of the Atlantic.

(The following paragraph is a translation of Mr. Vattomare's concluding remarks which were addressed in French to the president and members of the royal Athenæum).

I cannot terminate without expressing to the Directors of the Athénée Royale my gratitude for the kindness with which they granted me the use of their rooms for this occasion, and also for the mark of sympathy they give my American friends by their presence. This re-union, which we all consider as a family festival, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of a temple to be dedicated to the intellectual peace and union of nations, will, I hope, serve to draw tighter those cords of fraternal love which have so long united France and the United States. May it also, gentlemen, be the cause of uniting your labors to those of the American Scientific Establishments, and may the light which will spread from it form an immense blaze, which, enlightening the universe with a spirit of Christian charity will dissipate the darkness of national prejudices and show mankind, that, being children of the same father, we ought, in accordance with the designs of Providence, each contribute his mite to the grand fund of public utility.

The comte CASTELLANE, president of the royal Athenæum, replied, and expressed his happiness thus to be enabled in his own name, and on behalf of his colleagues, to congratulate Mr. Vattomare upon the astonishing success which had crowned his efforts. He was glad to see the citizens of different countries, thus united to pay a just tribute

to one who had done so much for both France and America, and hoped that the literary acquaintance, thus auspiciously commenced, would ultimately end in an intimate intellectual union.

Mr. GLADE, *one of the vice-presidents of the Athenæum*, in a warm and eloquent address, after complimenting Mr. Vattemare upon his success, drew a rapid picture of the almost uninterrupted good-will that has ever existed between France and the United States, and hailed the project of literary exchanges as one calculated to draw still tighter the bonds of friendship. He spoke of the important effects which the United States revolution had produced throughout the world, and terminated by rejoicing at being able to declare his admiration of that republic before a meeting of her citizens.

Mr. Jullien de Paris, founder of the *Revue Encyclopédique*, declared his admiration for the courage and perseverance with which Mr. Vattemare had carried his plans into execution.

He had watched him with interest for years, and was happy to see that he was about to be rewarded for all his toil, by seeing the adoption of a scheme calculated to benefit all — to hurt none; to give all the citizens of the world an opportunity of knowing the others.

Mr. HIPPEAU, *secretary of the French Athenæum*, appreciated the important results which most necessarily arise from Mr. Vattemare's, scheme, so soon as it be formally adopted by the United States Government. Marching as they do, with regular steps along the way of civilisation, all nations have much to gain by the exchange of their intellectual products with the others. Once well acquainted with each other, the thousand national prejudices which now prevail would melt away like the morning clouds, and the sun of universal peace and good will rise with all its glory. After speaking of the time when the illustrious Franklin was an active member of the French Athenæum, and dwelling on the friendship which had since existed between France and the United States, Mr. Hippeau concluded by congratulating the Americans present upon their native land, a country whose institutions, and above all, the domestic virtues and

high morality of her daughters presented a worthy example to all the others nations of the world.

Mr. Van Zandt begged leave to present the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas this meeting have listened with great satisfaction to a report made by Mr. Alexandre Vattemare of his recent labors for the purpose of establishing a system of literary exchanges between France and the United States, and have also seen documents which show that in return for what he brought from America he has received : — from the Chamber of Peers 120 volumes ; the Chamber of Deputies 220, the City of Paris 200, the Minister of Justice 225, the Minister of Finance 112, the Minister of Commerce 60, the Minister of War 50 valuable maps, the Minister of the Marine (secretary of the Navy) 50 charts maps, etc., the Minister of the Interior 100 volumes, the Minister of Public Instruction 29, the Academy of Political Sciences 5, the Museum of Natural History 10, The Royal School of Mines 28, and from various authors 550, making 2,518 volumes. The greater part of these works are in quarto, and are the more valuable as they are printed by order of government, and not to be purchased. They have been sent to the Congress of the United States — to the States of New-York, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Missouri and Louisiana — and to the cities of Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, New-York and Washington.

Be it therefore Resolved. That Mr. Alexandre Vattemare has fulfilled the mission which he took upon himself at the request of many citizens of the United States, with zeal and intelligence.

Resolved. That through his efforts and by a proper distribution of which he has made of books, maps, documents, etc., which he received from the state governments, and our citizens; our country has received a large number of valuable works, calculated to enrich her libraries and instruct her sons.

Resolved. That in order to promote the study of political sciences, to aid in the improvement of literature and the fine arts, and for the propagation of knowledge in America ; — and that the United States may be properly known and appreciated abroad by the distribu-

tion of its laws, literature, and statistics; — and on the general advancement of civilization and humanity, the system of literary exchanges between France and the United States ought to be permanently established.

Resolved. That in the opinion of this Meeting this can only be effected by appointment of an agent by the General Government, (who can also act for States, corporations and Societies) to reside in Paris, with power to conduct Literary Exchanges between France and America.

Resolved. That Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, the founder of the scheme, who has laboured so unceasingly to carry it into effect, and has rendered such important services to the United States, is the proper person to receive the said appointment. And that we recommend all bodies desirous to enjoy the fruits of his scheme, to empower him to act as their authorized agent.

Resolved. That the thanks of this Meeting, in behalf of the Citizens of the United States, be presented to Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, who without any desire of reward (other than the approval of every good citizen) has by devoting his active energies for the last two years, to the great detriment of his private affairs, greatly enriched the libraries of our country.

On motion of J. W. Cochran, it was *Resolved.* That this meeting in the name of their countrymen, return thanks to those public and private individuals who have generously given books to American libraries, and that as their gifts have been forwarded through Mr. Vattemare, he be requested to transmit them a copy of this resolution.

On motion of W. H. Finch, it was *Resolved.* That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to Messrs. Craplet, Bethune and Plon, Didot brothers, and Vinchon who have gratuitously printed Mr. Vattemare's documents.

On motion of Benj. P. Poore, it was *Resolved.* That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Civil List of France for their gene-

rous appropriation to repair the model of the Ville de Paris, which Mr. Vattemare intends presenting to the American government.

Mr. S. E. Low, *one of the Directors of the American Athenæum*, made a few happy remarks, thanking the members of the French Athenæum for the interest they had displayed by placing their rooms at Mr. Vattemare's disposal, and attending the Meeting.

A young Moldavian who was present, described the benighted state of his native land, and in a brief discourse, pointed out the benefits which would naturally arise from the adoption of Mr. Vattemare's scheme, after which Mr. B. P. Poore addressed the Meeting for a few moments, thanking those French gentlemen who had spoken, for the good feeling they had displayed towards the United States, and expressing his desire that the two nations might ever be on friendly terms.

Mr. Brown introduced the following resolution, which was passed.

Resolved. That copies of the proceeding of this Meeting be sent to the President of the United States, with a request that he will lay the same before Congress; and to the Governors of the Several States, who are requested to present the same to their Legislatures. After which, on motion, the Meeting adjourned, *sine die*.

NATHANIEL NILES, *President.*

BENJ. P. POORE, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS

FROM

LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

BY

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

From a Report made in the Chamber of Peers, by Count DE MONTESQUIOU-FESENZAC, Chairman of the Committee on petitions, on Mr. Vattemare's Memorial, April 29th. 1842.

Gentlemen. Similar petitions to the one I now have the honor to lay before you, were addressed to this body by Mr. Vattemare, in 1836 and 1839. He begs from your philanthropy the passage of a law, organizing between nations the exchange of duplicate objects in their libraries, archives and Museums. The former petitions were favorably received, discussed and recommended to the Ministers, as meeting with the approbation of this body, and their author, who had already explored in his travels throughout Europe almost all the scientific depositories of the Old World, undertook, with an ardour that should be sustained, a voyage across the Atlantic to propose his scheme to the United States. Stimulated by the success which he had met with in France, Vattemare embarked for America with hope; — he has returned with pride, bringing with him legislative documents, literary productions and specimens of natural history; and his scheme, whose execution some looked upon as doubtful, is in successful operation. But something more must be done, to ensure its permanency, for your Committee are convinced, that until a regular system of exchange be organized, under the auspices of competent persons, the immense benefits that the plan is capable of affording, will never be realized, but always remain incomplete.

Allow me to extract a few lines from the Report prepared on this subject for the United States Senate, by Col. Preston, Chairman of the library Committee. « The establishment, under the patronage of Government or of opulent associations, of a system of intellectual commerce, which will effect a more rapid transmission of ideas from each and every other country, is a project worthy of the advanced civilization of the age, and even if but partially carried out, cannot but fail to produce the most benign results, besides the accumulation and diffusion of knowledge, which is the primary purpose of the plan. The mere effort to effect it, is calculated to promote a spirit of peace and good will among men. »

Your Committee, Gentlemen, convinced that great advantages will be derived from a regular system of exchanges, propose that you recommend this petition to the Ministers of the Interior and Public Instruction, with the hope that a permanent Commission may be instituted similar to those they have established for the purpose of searching into the basis of our National History, and preserving our Public Monuments.

A few days after this Report was made, M. Vattemare received the following letter :

Sir, — It must require all your perseverance to accomplish the difficult task you have undertaken, but you are rapidly approaching the harbour, — a few efforts more, and your labors will be crowned with full success.

According to the orders given by the Grand Referendary of the Chamber of Peers, I have forwarded to you one hundred and twenty volumes of Parliamentary Documents, to be presented to the Congress of the United States, and I am now busy in preparing some other Documents to complete this first collection.

The Grand Referendary has likewise commanded me to forward annually to the Congress of the United States, all documents printed by the Chamber during its session. We should be happy to receive in return the papers of general interest published by Congress, and if they have any copies of the American archives and State papers, they will be a useful addition to our library.

I am, my dear sir, yours, etc.

CARREY.

Librarian to the Chamber of Peers.

From a Report made in the Chamber of Deputies, by Viscount Montesquiou, Chairman of the Committee on petitions, on Mr. Vattemare's Memorial, April 9th 1842.

Gentlemen, Mr. Vattemare requests that this House would appropriate, every year, a certain number of the documents printed by its order, for international exchanges.

In 1836, Count de Mosburg, Chairman of the Committee on the budget, after giving an account of some exchanges that had been effected by the British Parliament, said that " it would be desirable that similar exchanges could be effected with the United States of America, whose legislation and administration are so vast and so worthy an object of study, both for the philosopher and the statesman.

This wish can now be easily realised, the Congress of the United States for 1840 having decided that fifty extra copies of every Document printed by order of either House be bound for exchanges with foreign nations.

To enrich at very little expense our libraries, to complete our collections, and to spread all over the world the evidences of our sciences, arts and civilisation, must be the glorious results of Mr. Vattemare's scheme. It is in fact a grand and noble idea, and your Committee, approving of the views of the petition, propose that it be recommended to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to the Minister of Public Instruction.

A few days afterwards, Mr. Vattemare received the following letter.

Sir, in your letter of the 8th inst., you expressed a wish that the Chamber, in return for the Legislative Documents forwarded by the United States, should transmit to Congress those works and Documents which might be of interest to its members, and that in future a regular system of exchange of Documents should be established between the two countries.

This double wish of yours, Sir, has been realised, for we are not only authorised to acknowledge, by a suitable return, the presents made by the Congress of the United States to our Chamber; but are to forward in future, every Book and Document printed by order of the Chamber during each session.

We are now preparing the first collection, and beg of you, Sir, to accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

CHARLES CLÉMENT,
FORTUNÉ LAIDET,

Questors of the Chamber of Deputies.

From the Minister of Justice and Public Worship.

After having had my collection searched to find what I had to offer in return for your valuable gifts, I have decided upon a copy of the Reports of Civil and Criminal Justice, published by my Department, and a complete set of the *Bulletin des Lois*. I have to regret that the first volumes of the Reports are not to be had and that the *Bulletin des Lois*, are but half-bound; but if the exchange upon these terms is acceptable, I shall immediately give the necessary orders for effecting it with facility.

Receive, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MARTIN (du Nord).

Keeper of the Seals-Minister of Justice and of Public Worship.

From the same.

Sir, I hasten to inform you that I have ordered a complete collection of le *Bulletin des Lois*,“ and a copy of the Reports of Civil and Criminal Justice to be placed at your disposal for the Congress of the United States; and copies, of the latter work for the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana in exchange for the Judiciary and Statistical Documents which you presented to my Departement.

From the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Sir, I regret very much that pressure of business has prevented me from expressing to you verbally how highly I appreciate the disinterested zeal with which you are endeavoring to increase the literary riches of our libraries. Were I to compliment you on your labors in America, I could add nothing to the honorable testimonials contained in the different letters addressed to you by the Minister of the King at Washington, an eye witness of the success of your efforts there.

You know, I dare say, that exchanges of administrative and parliamentary Documents are already organised between this country and the Legislatures of England and several other countries, through the medium of official agents, and it seems to me that the same medium is indispensable for the best

regulation of the projected exchanges with the American State Legislatures.

Receive, Sir the assurances of, etc., etc.,

GUIZOT,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From the Minister of War.

The Marshal Minister of War, and President of the Council, after having made himself thoroughly acquainted with the numerous votes of legislative bodies in favor of your proposition, was anxious to do every thing in his power to give it that support which it deserves, and has addressed to the Consul General of France in the United States a collection of the different publications emanating from his Department, to be forwarded to Washington.

I doubt not but that this return for the maps you delivered to me, will be the commencement of the execution of a system calculated to produce happy results for every branch of science.

I am, Sir, yours ,

PELET,

Lt. General, Peer of France.

From the Minister of the Navy and Colonies.

For the purpose of acknowledging the present of documents published by the Congress of the United States received by the Navy Department in 1841, the first four volumes of the *Pilot Français* were, in June of the same year, forwarded by my orders to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to be transmitted through his Department to the Federal Government, and on the 21st of April 1842 the fifth volume was transmitted through the same channel.

Hence you see, Sir, that the Navy Department has contributed its share towards the system of literary exchanges which you wish to see established between France and the United States; a system which you have labored to bring forward with a truly laudable disinterestedness.

Receive, Sir, the assurances of, etc., etc.,

Admiral DUPERRE,

Secretary of State, Minister of the Navy and Colonies.

From the Minister of Commerce.

Sir, I appreciate with you the utility of the system of exchange you are endeavouring to establish between the United States and Foreign Nations. It is peculiarly important to this department, on account of the commercial documents which it will furnish for it.

In return for the present made by the American Government, I have just transmitted to Congress through the medium of the Minister of *Foreign Affairs*, a copy of all the documents published by my Department.

According to your desire have the honor to transmit to you for the States of New York, Maine, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, four complete copies of the General Statistics of France.

I shall take care also that the continuation of this important work be regularly forwarded to the above States as it issues from the press, and hope it may be serviceable.

I am confident, Sir, that the exchange of documents between France and the United States (an exchange you have so zealously and perseveringly laboured to effect), will soon be established on a regular basis.

Yours, with the highest esteem,

L. CUNIN GRIDAINE,

Minister of Commerce.

From the Minister of Public Works.

You ask at the same time that I should adopt as a principle for my Department, that in future a certain number of all its Documents be devoted annually to international exchanges.

All I can do for the present, is to thank you, sir, for the books you delivered to me; — as for your project of exchange, although I must acknowledge that it is a most liberal idea, I am obliged to inform you that its realisation, so far as my Department is concerned, cannot be effected unless the proposals are made by an appointed agent, following thus the diplomatic way.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your, etc.

T. Z. TESTE,

Minister of Public Works.

From the Minister of Finance.

Sir, I shall very willingly enter, as much as it will be in my power, in the

way you have opened, convinced as I am that exchanges of this nature with Foreign Nations can but have happy results.

From the same.

In accordance with the desire you expressed in your former letters, I have ordered five collections of the different Documents published by my Department, to be forwarded to you, that you may present them to Congress and the States of New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Yours with high assurances of respect.

LAPLAGNE,

Minister of Finances.

From the Minister of the Interior.

June 10, 1842. In the same letter you call my attention to the system of international exchanges of literary and scientific objects, which you have developed in your petitions to both Houses. I acknowledge with you, Sir, the advantages which would result from these mutual transmissions between nations (if they could be regularly organised) in strengthening the bonds of friendship; — each would also profit from the scientific riches and administrative labors of the others.

Animated by these ideas, I have always, when requested by Foreign Ministers, put at their disposal the Documents published by this Departement; and have often made *officially*, similar request for the administrative publications of other powers. Under these circumstances, the Governments of the United States will always find me ready to furnish them with any Documents they may deem of interest.

From the same.

December 21, 1842. I shall then be always disposed to offer to the States you mentioned, the publications printed by my Department, when the application shall be officially made. I shall feel happy thus to contribute towards establishing between the United States and France, an exchange of Documents which might be useful to the administration of both countries.

From the same.

March 26, 1842. This Department is now prepared to aid you in accomplishing the project you have conceived (and in a great degree realised) for

international exchanges of books and administrative Documents, by giving it that support which it deserves; — and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the success of an enterprise as useful as it is honorable.

Receive, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration,

A. PASSY,

Under Secretary of State.

The City council of Paris.

Mr. Vattemare's proposals were received with the highest gratification by the City Council, who adopted a Report and series of resolutions evincing their desire to establish upon a permanent and friendly basis literary exchanges between the principal cities of the United States and Paris. The following letter from the chief magistrate gives the final result of their decisions.

Since I had the honour of addressing you, the Municipal Council of Paris have deliberated upon the proposition which I submitted to them, concerning the Documents which had been transmitted to our city by you in the name of the State of Maine and the cities of New York, Boston, Baltimore and Washington. The Council were highly pleased with these marks of esteem and kindness towards the City of Paris, and desire me to return thanks for them.

They have also requested me to transmit to each of the above cities, and the State of Maine, a copy of our various administrative publications, and with them a copy of the proceedings of a Council held on the 21st of December. In accordance with this request I intend making a collection of these Documents and will forward them as soon as possible. In the mean time I am happy to express, in the name of the City of Paris, my gratitude to the corporation of those cities and to those citizens of the United states who have interested themselves in this affair.

With the highest consideration, I am, Sir, yours, etc.

COUNT DE RAMBUTEAU,

Prefect of the Seine, Peer of France.

From the Report made by Mr. E. Thayer in behalf of the Committee, (consisting of Messrs. the Count Boulay de la Meurthe, Pelassy de l'Ousle and Thayer), the following paragraphs are extracted.

The United States have warmly advocated this fresh opportunity of drawing closer the ties of an ancient alliance. Nations, like individuals, must become well acquainted before they sympathise with each other.

It is necessary to have in view, in a system of national exchange, that which will make known the laws and customs of each country, that is to say, administrative and statistical documents. Those published in France will unfold to the inhabitants of the New World the experience of an administration which dates from the earliest time; whilst those from America will exhibit to the ancient establishments of Europe the resources of a young people full of energy.

Mr. Vattemare, in his letter to the Prefect of the Seine, requests that the City of Paris should respond to these donations, by forwarding to the Cities above named, and to the State of Maine, statistical and administrative works and reports, to show that the City is willing to continue these exchanges, which cannot fail to increase the good feeling existing between the United States and France.

From the Preamble and Resolutions.

Considering, that the City of Paris is sensible of the kindness shown by the State of Maine and the different Cities above mentioned, as well as those Citizens of the United States who have interested themselves in this act of civilisation; and that this kindness should be reciprocated;

Considering, that the system of exchange, which M. Vattemare has created by his untiring and disinterested exertions, may have a very favorable effect upon literature, science and the fine arts, and above all, on the *sympathy and ancient friendship* so happily existing between the United States and France;

Considering, also, that the City of Paris is disposed to do every thing in its power to enter into the system of exchange so soon as it be firmly established,

Be it resolved, that the Prefect be requested to return thanks to the State of Maine and to the Cities of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington, in the name of the City of Paris, for the works and Documents forwarded to it.

Resolved, that the Prefect be requested to transmit to each of these Cities and to the State of Maine a copy of all the works enumerated in the accompanying list, and to join a copy of the present deliberation.

Resolved, that the council postpone the ultimate consideration of the establishment of a system of exchanges, until definite propositions be submitted to them by the Prefect of the Seine.

BESSON, *President.*

LAFOLLOTTE, *Secretary.*

From a Report made to the Society of « the Men of Letters. »

When we say an international law, we mean a law agreed upon by several nations united by a common interest. To obtain the passage of such a law,

providing for the interchange of Books, Public Documents, works of Art, Natural Curiosities, etc., etc., has been Mr. Vattemare's sole aim for years; and with a perseverance which cannot be too highly praised, he has gone about (with no other authority than his devotion for a good object) a missionary from the Republic of Letters to the civilised world.

The account he gave us of his labors was not only lengthy, but embraced many facts of great diversity and interest; — long journeys through the Old and New world honorable testimonials from foreign powers — laws demanded from Governments in the name of civilisation, and immediately passed, and put into action — immense public Meetings advocating his system — and a vast quantity of literary and scientific treasures, brought home to enrich our collections.

The most interesting part is, the account of his voyage to America. After having visited all the kingdoms of Europe, and been successful every where, he sailed from France on the 20th. of October (here follows an account of Mr. Vattemare's glorious reception in, and travels through the United States). But we will go no farther in this interesting narrative. — Enough has been said to show that the founder of this praiseworthy scheme has succeeded far beyond his expectations. When he arrived, he only intended preparing the public mind for after movements; but his plans were at once comprehended — considered — and carried into action. Bills were passed by Congress and several State Legislatures — Institutions founded in large cities, and books given to our Governments and institutions, which show us the rapid steps the United States are taking in all that tends to advance her Citizens.

Nor is this all. M. Vattemare has, with a generosity almost unparelled in modern times, not only given his time and energies; but a vast collection of curiosities and books, given to him, are now to be found in the public institutions of France. « Give me nothing in return, », says he. « But send what you have to those States, whose Citizens, by their liberality to me, enabled me to enrich you. »

We cannot therefore content ourselves to say, with the public Meeting of New York, « that Mr. Vattemare's plan is worthy of the attention of all enlightened Governments », but we propose to add to this declaration, *that Mr. Vattemare, both as Negotiator and benefactor, has well merited the thanks of civilization and of his country.* Adopted and ordered to be printed.

ARAGO, OF THE INSTITUTE,
President;

CAUCHOIS-LEMAIRE,
FELIX PYAT,

} *Vice Presidents;*

VICTOR HUGO, OF THE ACADEMY
DE BALZAC,

} *Honorary Presidents.*

H. CELLIER, CLAUDON, *reporter of the Committee.*

